



VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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April 1, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith
United States House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

The University of Texas at Austin is requesting funding for the Lake Travis Test Station Facility Upgrade initiative. The requested amount is \$3,305,373 for FY 2010, in order to provide an extensive upgrade to the existing Lake Travis Test Station facility that has been in service for over 55 years. The structural foundation of the test station is constructed of World War II pontoon bridge material that has decayed to the point where it is no longer viable. This project will provide for the replacement of the main structure and work space infrastructure. The Lake Travis Test Station has become critical to the operations of the United States Navy in developing sonar systems. It is recognized as one of the few natural sites in the nation that is capable of supporting critical free field acoustic calibration of sonar systems and acoustic transducers. Maintaining these capabilities in the future is essential to meet both current and future needs of the U.S. Navy in areas such as underwater intruder security, ship upgrades, fleet training, and other purposes. Over the years, this facility has been able to achieve a high level of success in sonar system delivery to the U.S. Navy with units that function properly on initial installation. The continued success of this facility through public investment in this upgrade is important for national security, ensuring that there will be no loss of continuity of service to the U.S. Navy in the process of upgrading the old facility structures.

The Lake Travis Test Station is an essential component of The University of Texas at Austin's Applied Research Laboratory, providing a place to conduct both basic and applied experimental research in underwater acoustics and supporting over 600 theses and 200 dissertations of graduate students. Funding for this request will enhance these capabilities and help maintain the position of the Applied Research Laboratory as an international leader in high frequency sonar research.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Juan M. Sanchez
Vice President for Research

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